Extracts from an article
in the Advocate of Peace, on the "Duties
and Derelictions of the Church," by
Rev. John Angell James, of
Birmingham, Engd.

× × × "How is it that the pacific principles of the New Testament make way so slowly in the world? Just because they make so little way in the Church. The church of Christ does not seem to know her vocation, as a mirror to reflect truth upon the world. But she has committed another mistake; and that is, in not rightly appreciating what the truth is. × × Things that ought to be done are truths, as well as those that ought to be believed. Love is a great, glorious and fundamental truth, for God, the first truth, is love. × ×× The voice of the Church is not heard, her counsels are not followed, her example is not imitated, her power is not felt, for want of

more that is divine & heavenly about her. She is too like the world, to lead it. Let the church be what she ought to be, and x x x slavery & wars, at her bidding, would come out of the bodies they have possessed, troubled and tormented, just as the demons did, which, at the voice of Christ, left the men who dwelt among the tombs. x x x

"And who ought to be foremost in the Church, but its pastors? x x Instead of sinking to the level of the people, they should draw up the people to their own; instead of a timid, shrinking, time-serving spirit, and acting upon the law of expediency, let them in the spirit of martyrdom — and what else, or less, is the spirit of the gospel — proclaim from the

pulpit, and, if need be, from the prison and the stake, the sin of whatever opposeth itself to the Kingdom of GOD. When the church is what it ought to be, the world will be converted; and ~~but~~ the church will be what it should be, when its ministers are. x x Let this be sounded forth through all lands."

[The whole article will be found in the "Liberator" of Feb. 13. 1846, 4th page.]

ms. B.l.6 v.13, p.37